

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,**

**FEBRUARY 4, 1857.**

Read twice and referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

**AN ACT**

To incorporate the Columbian Institution, for the instruction of the deaf and dumb and the blind.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3       That Byron Sunderland, J. C. McGuire, David A. Hall, and  
4       George W. Riggs, of Washington city, William Edes and  
5       Judson Mitchell, of Georgetown, and Amos Kendall and Wil-  
6       liam Stickney, of the county of Washington, and such persons  
7       as may hereafter be associated with them by contributions for  
8       the instruction of the deaf and dumb and the blind, are hereby  
9       created a body politic and corporate, under the name of the  
10      "Columbia Institution, for the instruction of the deaf and dumb  
11      and the blind," to have perpetual succession, and be capable  
12      to take, hold, and enjoy lands, tenements, hereditaments, and  
13      personal property; to use a common seal, and the same to  
14      alter at pleasure: *Provided*, That no real or personal property

15 shall be held by said corporation except such as may be neces-  
16 sary to the maintenance and efficient management of said in-  
17 stitution.

1       SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the institution  
2 shall be managed as provided for in its present constitution  
3 and such additional regulations as may from time to time be  
4 found necessary; but as soon as sufficient contributions shall  
5 have been paid in to authorize an election according to the  
6 provisions of said constitution, the provisional officers therein  
7 named shall give notice of a general meeting to the contribu-  
8 tors for the election of officers, and the officers elected at  
9 such general meeting shall hold their offices for one year, and  
10 until their successors shall be elected, as in said constitution  
11 provided: *Provided*, That said constitution may be altered in  
12 the manner therein provided, but not in such manner as to  
13 violate the Constitution or any law of the United States or of  
14 the District of Columbia.

1       SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the  
2 duty of the justices of the peace in the several wards of the  
3 cities of Washington and Georgetown and of the county of  
4 Washington to ascertain the names and residences of all deaf  
5 and dumb and blind persons within their respective wards and  
6 districts, who of them are of a teachable age, and also who of  
7 them are in indigent circumstances, and report the same to  
8 the president of the institution hereby incorporated.

1        SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That whenever the  
 2 Secretary of the Interior shall be satisfied by evidence produced  
 3 by the president of the institution hereby incorporated that any  
 4 deaf and dumb or blind person, of teachable age, properly be-  
 5 longing to this District, is in indigent circumstances and can-  
 6 not command the means to secure an education, it shall be his  
 7 duty to authorize the said person to enter the said institution  
 8 for instruction, and to pay for his maintenance and tuition  
 9 therein at the rate of one hundred and fifty dollars per annum,  
 10 for such deaf and dumb pupil, and at the rate of one hundred  
 11 and fifty dollars per annum for such blind pupil, payable quar-  
 12 terly, out of the treasury of the United States.

1        SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be law-  
 2 ful for said institution to receive and instruct deaf and dumb  
 3 and blind persons from any of the States and Territories of  
 4 the United States, on such terms as may be agreed upon by  
 5 themselves, their parents, guardians, or trustees, and the proper  
 6 authorities of said institution.

1        SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the  
 2 duty of the president and directors of said institution to report  
 3 to the Secretary of the Interior the condition of said institu-  
 4 tion on the first day of July in each year, embracing in said  
 5 report the number of pupils of each description received and  
 6 discharged during the preceding year, and the number re-  
 7 maining in the institution; also the branches of knowledge

8 and industry taught, and the progress made therein. Also a  
 9 statement showing the receipts of the institution, and from  
 10 what sources; and its disbursements, and for what objects.

Passed the House of Representatives February 3, 1857.

Attest:

WM. CULLOM,

*Clerk House of Representatives.*

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